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Reports of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind

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Annual report of the trustees and superintendent of the Asylum for the Blind, of the state of Mississippi, for the year ... <1876>-1877

Biennial report of the trustees and superintendent of the Asylum for the Blind, of the state of Mississippi, for the years ... <1878--'79>

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BIENNIAL REPORT

ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT

OE THE

ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

FOR THE YEARS 1878--'79.

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY.

JACKSON, MISS.:
J. L. POWER, PUBLIC PRINTER,

1880.

OFFICERS FOR 1878-'79.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

HON. C. H. MANSHIP, Vice President.

T. E. HELM, ESQ., COL. W. B. TAYLOR,

REV. G. A. SMYTHE, J. H. MORRIS, ESQ.

SUPERINTENDENT.

DR. W. S. LANGLEY.

TEACHERS IN LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

MISSES L. AND M. L. LANGLEY.

TEACHER IN MUSIC.

MISS M. M. LANGLEY.

TEACHERS IN HANDICRAFT.

MISS R. SMITH, MISS ARIE JONES,

MR. W. S. SKELLINGER.

MATRON.

MRS. S. D. LANGLEY.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To His Excellency J. M. Stone, Governor of Mississippi:

SIR—I have the honor, herewith, to transmit to your Excellency the biennial report of the Superintendent of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind, for the years 1878 and 1879; also the Secretary's report of the disbursements, for the same period, in the form of a tabular statement, showing the expenses of the Institution, under appropriate heads.

The Trustees desire to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the apprehension generally prevailing with regard to the epidemic in the year 1878, lasting several months, prevented the attendance of the pupils until after the epidemic was over, late in November, and that this, as a matter of course, caused a great reduction in the expenses, enabling the Trustees to carry on the Institution with the amount appropriated by the Legislature. But the Trustees would respectfully state that the appropriation made for the years 1878 and 1879, would otherwise have been wholly inadequate.

The Trustees also desire to inform your Excellency that the Asylum buildings have been found quite insufficient for the accommodati on of the number of pupils in attendance, and that a building contiguous to the Institution had to be rented to supply the deficiency of room. This is inconvenient to the blind, especially in bad weather.

A settlement of the bequest of five thousand dollars to the Asylum, by the late Mr. William C. Johnson, of Vicksburg, was had with Mr. John A. Klein, executor of said Johnson, in December, 1878, in which he paid seven hundred and fifty dollars in cash, and gave his notes as such executor, for the remainder of the amount; that is, seventeen notes of two hundred and fifty dollars each, amounting in the aggregate to $4,250 00, three of which have already been paid, and another is now due. The amount of this fund in the hands of the Treasurer, at this time, is $1,500 00.

The main Asylum building is old, and unsuited and inade-

quate to the necessities of the Institution; and the area of the grounds is altogether too limited. In view of these facts, the Trustees believe that it would be advisable to expend the amount of the bequest of the late William C. Johnson, in the purchase of a suitable lot of land in the northern part of the city of Jackson, beyond the reach of yellow fever, and the Trustees would respectfully recommend that an appropriation be made by the Legislature sufficient to enable them to erect a building of dimensions and construction adapted in all respects to the peculiar purposes of such an educational establishment.

The officers and employees of the Institution have discharged their duties with great zeal and fidelity, and command the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. H. MANSHIP,

Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind:

GENTLEMEN—In accordance with the law of the State, I respectfully submit this, my first biennial report, of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind, embracing the years 1878 and 1879.

The number of pupils connected with the Institution during the session of 1878 was 27 in all. Of this number 13 were females and 14 males, of whom 4 were colored. Average attendance, 27. For 1879, 28 are in attendance up to date—16 females and 12 males, and only one colored. Average attendance, 28.

I should explain just here, that in reporting but one colored pupil in attendance upon the Institution at this time, very few of them reach here until after the Christmas holidays. For the last two or three sessions the number of colored pupils has been small. I am not prepared to give a reason, as the demands for admission have always been promptly complied with, where the applicants were eligible.

Eight pupils that were here last session are absent, some having gone into business for themselves; others may return before the close of the present session. We have had an accession of nine new pupils since last October, and others are expected, who, when here, will occupy all the spare room we have in both buildings.

In connection with this subject, it may be proper to state that the main building, appropriated to the whites, would never accommodate more than twenty-one or twenty-two pupils, though at times we have had a larger number, thereby occupying rooms never designed for sleeping apartments, and crowding the dormitories, much to the detriment of the health of the pupils.

In 1878 the demands for the admission of pupils became so great, and our accommodations so limited, that it was deemed proper by the Board of Trustees to secure an outside building contiguous to the Institution, so as to meet the demands made upon us. I succeeded in renting a building in the rear of the Institution, but could not get possession until last October. This building has been appropriated exclusively to the use of

the males, and though the arrangement has enabled us to satisfy in part the demands made upon us, it subjects us to great inconvenience and necessarily exposes the pupils very much in passing from one building to the other, when the weather is inclement.

The health of the pupils during the two sessions has not been as satisfactory as I could have desired, still, with the exception of a few cases of pneumonia, and one of typhoid fever, the sickness, mostly malarial fever, has been mild. I have to record one death from typhoid fever, Prince McCoy, a colored pupil from Coahoma county, who died last June.

In the three departments, Literary, Musical and Industrial, with few exceptions, the progress of the pupils has given general satisfaction. I feel it due to the teachers and Matron of the Institution to bear testimony to the zeal and fidelity with which they have discharged their duties, and also to the industry and good deportment of the pupils.

Having so signally failed in all my appeals to the Legislature to provide more liberally for the accommodation of the class under my care, I am disposed to place the matter in your hands, hoping you may be more fortunate than I have been.

Our thanks are due Mrs. Judge Campbell for the deep interest she has always manifested in our pupils and for presents she has so liberally bestowed upon them. Also to Miss Cornelia Whiting for Christmas presents to her Sunday school class.

In conclusion we tender our thanks to the proprietors of the following papers: Jackson Clarion, Baptist Record, Musical Record, Goodson Gazette, Mutes Companion, and Little Twinkler. I regret to say that only two of these papers are contributed by the press of Mississippi.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. LANGLEY, Superintendent.

LIST OF ARTICLES MADE IN THE GIRLS' WORK ROOM DURING THE SESSIONS 1878 AND 1879.

Handkerchiefs	4
Table cloths	6
Table napkins	36
Sheets	113
Pillow cases	100
Pillow ticks	8
Towels	61
Aprons	2
Shop aprons	12
Gowns	10
Sacques	3
Under bodies	10
Dresses	43
Drawers	19
Shirts	24
Dress skirts	2
Under skirts	8
Veils	1
Star Quilt, pieced	1
Quilts, pieced	2
Under garments	18
Flannel sacques	2
Bed spreads	13

BEAD WORK AND CROCHETING MADE IN THE CLASS DURING THE SESSIONS 1878 AND 1879.

Bead work, pieces	232
Crochet work—	
Shawls	24
Sacques	7
Socks, pair	1

The work shop having been leased to Mr. W. S. Skellenger, the present Master of Handicraft, no accurate estimate can be made of the amount of work done, as no account was kept. It can be assumed, however, that the mechanical department has kept pace with the others, and that a large amount of labor has been done by the pupils therein engaged.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS—1878.

FEMALES.

NAME.	COUNTY.
Katie Smith	Tippah.
Arie Jones	Amite.
Sallie Marcum	Marshall.
Louisa Shumaker	Panola.
Debby Dean	Pike.
Nellie Dorsett	Tate.
Alice Whittington	Benton.
Barbara Seigle	Panola.
Lacie Brown	Pontotoc.
Lorena Brown	Pontotoc.
Dora Hickman	Lawrence.
Florence Graves	Hinds.
Olivia Russell	Union.

MALES.

Dennis Walker	Simpson.
Charlie Mullins	Pike.
Van Ferguson	Panola.
J. Mitchell	Panola.
William Coghill	Marshall.
William Whitton	Chickasaw.
Charlie Anderson	Attala.
H. C. McGehee	Pike.
William McKeener	Clarke.
Henry Anderson	Hinds.
Cornelius Winfree	Hinds.
Richmond Cane	Pike.
Joseph Taylor	Yalobusha.
Prince McCoy	Coahoma.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS—1879.

FEMALES.

NAME.	COUNTY.
Dora Hickman	Lawrence.
Arie Jones	Amite.
Florence Graves	Hinds.
Louisa Shumaker	Panola.
Alice Whittington	Benton.
Lacie Brown	Pontotoc.
Lorena Brown	Pontotoc.
Sallie Marcum	Marshall.
Katie Smith	Tippah.
Debby Dean	Pike.
Olivia Russell	Union.
Nellie Dorsett	Tate.
Barbara Seigle	Panola.
Nora Jones	Tippah.
Julia Jordan	Pike.
Mattie Westbrook	Lincoln.

MALES.

Charlie Mullins	Pike.
William Gibbons	Issaquena.
Thomas Walne	Hinds.
Whitman Peery	Lawrence.
Henry Anderson	Hinds.
Dennis Walker	Simpson.
Van Ferguson	Panola.
Charlie Anderson	Attala.
William Wactor	Pike.
Napoleon Case	Pike.
Martin Crouch	Benton.
Cornelius Winfree	Hinds.

STATEMENT of the Expenditures for the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind, for the years 1878 and 1879.

Provisions	$ 5,103 85
Fuel, coal and wood	994 87
Salaries and wages	6,497 50
Books, stationery, music, etc	175 55
Clothing, etc	471 56
Transportation of pupils	501 51
Drugs and medicines	381 92
Repairs, utensils, furniture, etc	956 88
Gas, oil, candles, etc	248 50
Freight bills	148 70
Insurance	250 00
Washing, soap, etc	483 75
Sundries	162 48
One Piano	375 00
Total	$ 16,752 37

GEO. A. SMYTHE, Secretary.